(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether any remedial measures have been suggested by the task force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government propose to take to repair the embankments in sunderbans in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources on 11th June, 2009 under the chairmanship of Shri S.K. Das, Former Chairman, Central Water Commission including eminent engineers and Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) to assess the damage caused by cyclone 'Aila'; to the embankments in Sunderbans in West Bengal and to suggest short term measures to prevent further breaches in the embankments and flooding of the area and to recommend long-term remedial measures to prevent recurrence of embankment breaches and floods in future.

(c) The Task Force visited the flood affected areas in Sunderbans in West Bengal on June 25-26, 2009 and recommended the State Government to prepare an appropriate scheme for restoration of the washed away and severely damaged embankments, by making river/sea side slopes more flat armoured with brick block pitching or by using ply- propylene based geo bags (filled with local soils) of ultraviolet resistant quality. The Task Force also suggested the providing of sufficient free board over the Highest High Tide Water Level(s) along with a Parapet wall above the embankments with suitable capping so as to prevent over topping by tidal waves during floods. The State Government was further advised to prepare and submit Detailed Project Report covering the entire scope of works to Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) for clearance.

(d) The State Government of West Bengal has started the works of immediate nature at site for the restoration of damaged embankments.

Betting and gambling during IPL matches

115. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IPL matches have encouraged large scale betting and gambling;

(b) if so, whether Government has work out the amount involved in betting and gambling and agencies which conduct these activities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to curb these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) This Ministry has not received any complaints regarding betting and gambling during IPL matches. Moreover, BCCI has also informed that they have not received any complaints in this regard.